

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Rosemary Weathers
ROSE COMMUNICATIONS
859.331.0794 (Office)
859.801.6014 (Cell)
rweathers@RoseCommunicate.com



Send the Kids Outdoors – to Cincinnati Parks' Nature Camps

City's summer camps inspire a third generation of kids to "Explore & More"

CINCINNATI – Send the kids outdoors this summer. Let them hike through forests and fields, explore creeks and wetlands, discover wildflowers and prairie grasses. They can canoe streams, hook a fish, build campfires and learn outdoor survival skills. They can practice archery or capture nature in art. Or they can become junior archaeologists and dig into history by excavating sites. And they can do it all in "Everybody's Backyard" – the Cincinnati Parks.

Cincinnati Parks' Nature Camps are the grandfather of summer camps in Greater Cincinnati, thriving after more than 75 years and three generations of kids. The Cincinnati Parks summer camps inspire kids to "Explore & More" and include Art and Theater Camps, Outdoor Skills Camps, Archeology Camps, Preschool Discovery Mornings and Teen Service Camps.

The Cincinnati Parks 2006 camp season begins June 12 and runs through August 11. **Registration begins April 3**, and some camps fill up quickly. **For more information and registration details for all Cincinnati Parks camps call 513-321-6070 or visit the Parks on the web at www.cincinnati-oh.gov/parks.**

Cincinnati Parks camps are held all over town – in "Everybody's Backyard" – from Mount Airy Forest to California Woods, from Caldwell Nature Center to French Park, and from Rapid Run to Ault Park. Below are details. The COMPLETE 2006 SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULE is attached.

Nature Camps

Cincinnati Parks Nature Camps are held entirely outdoors! Cincinnati Park Board naturalists and camp counselors serve as guides and instructors as children explore nature. The camps are held in weekly sessions throughout the summer at Ault Park, Caldwell Nature Center, French Park, McFarland Woods, Mount Airy Forest, Rapid Run Park and Stanbery Park.

Ages: Cincinnati Nature Camps are for children who are school age, who have completed kindergarten through age 12. The children at each camp are divided into groups by age.

Sessions: Each Nature Camp session is one-week long and runs from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Fee: Each Camp's fee is \$50 for Cincinnati residents and \$60 for others (\$10 less for the week of July 4, because the camp is four days.) Each child decorates a free Camp T-shirt to bring home.

Adventure and Art Camps

Avon Woods Nature Preserve: Children can explore one of the last remnants of the great north woods right in the heart Cincinnati at Avon Woods, an island of green surrounded by Paddock

Hills, North Avondale and Bond Hill. The nature preserve has rolling hills, hiking trails, a stream cut valley and community gardens.

Summer Camps at Avon Woods include:

- Young Naturalist Camp for children ages 4-5.
- Explorers Camp for children ages 6-9.
- Outdoor Skills Camp for children ages 10-13, with canoeing, hiking, archery, campfire building, and other “outdoor survival” activities.

California Woods Nature Preserve: More than 100 acres of preserved land with old-growth forest, prairie and streams provide a natural haven for summertime explorers at California Woods, on the city’s East side.

Summer camps at California Woods include:

- Preschool Nature Camp for children ages 4-5.
- Nature Detectives Camp for children ages 5-7.
- Nature Art & Theater Camp for children ages 6-9.
- Outdoor Survival Camp for children ages 8-10.
- Archaeology Adventure Camp for children ages 10-13.

LaBoiteaux Woods Nature Preserve: LaBoiteaux is the jewel in an emerald crown of hundreds of acres of greenspace, hills, valleys and wildlife corridor on the west side of Cincinnati. Four miles of hiking trails crisscross the preserve.

Summer camps at LaBoiteaux Woods Nature Center include:

- Preschool Explorers Camp.
- Explorer’s Camp for children ages 6-9.
- Nature Art Camps for children ages 6-9 and ages 10-14.
- Outdoor Skills Camp for children ages 10-13.
- Natural Treasures Camp for children ages 5-10.
- Teen Service Camp for ages 13 and older.

Preschool Discovery Mornings

For the younger set, ages 3½ to 5, Cincinnati’s neighborhood parks offer a summer camp experience from 9:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Tuesdays through Fridays on different weeks at various locations. These programs are offered at Ault Park, Caldwell Nature Center, French Park, McFarland Woods, Mount Airy Forest, Rapid Run Park and Stanbery Park.

Teen Summer Outdoors

Teens ages 13 and older also can be part of the Cincinnati Parks summer camp experience.

- Teen Service Camp at LaBoiteaux is a free camp where teens earn service hours while learning about flora and fauna and removing non-native plants to improve the habitat.
- Teen volunteers at all the camps help camp leaders by leading hikes and assisting young children with crafts and games.

For more information and registration details for all Cincinnati Parks camps call 513-321-6070 or visit the Parks on the web at www.cincinnati-oh.gov/parks. Cincinnati Parks COMPLETE 2006 SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULE for children to “Explore & More” is attached.

Join us for the free “Kids’ Kick-Off to Summer” celebration June 10, 1:00-4:00 p.m., at Eden Park’s Seasongood Pavilion.